

# GRADUATE COUNCIL MINUTES

October 29, 2018

The Graduate Council met at 1:30 pm in Thomas Boyd Hall in room 135 with the following members present: Broussard, Lockridge, Richardson (ex-officio), Wicks (ex-officio), Chance, de Queiroz, Francis, Frick, Gansle, Husseneder, Perry, Pojman, Raffoul, Seifried, and Sharky.

Absent: Lee (ex-officio), Adams, Cai, Lindau, & Piccoli.

## **Minutes of September 25, 2018**

Lockridge asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes from the September meeting. Chance informed members that he sent an email asking to have the minutes accurately reflect his and Piccoli's attendance. Husseneder said her absence was not recorded in the minutes. The revised minutes will record the attendance of Chance, Piccoli, and Husseneder as absent. Gansle made a motion to approve the minutes with the revisions, Perry seconded, and the motion passed with one abstention.

## **Chair's Report**

- Sasha Thackaberry, Vice Provost of Digital and Continuing Education, is on the agenda to discuss LSU Online and to answer questions.
- The call for EDA award proposals has been sent.
- Broussard asked if anyone would volunteer to chair the Awards committee. The chairperson will assist Dean Wicks with assigning members to review EDA awards. Pojman volunteered and was selected to chair of the Awards committee.
- Lockridge introduced the new member from the College of Humanities & Social Sciences, François Raffoul. He is serving in place of Suzanne Marchand while she is on sabbatical.
- Future Agenda Items: Revision of the Remote Participation policy and the Academic Renewal Policy (previously called Academic Bankruptcy Policy).

## **Interim Dean's Report**

- The Academic Renewal policy
  - Approved by the Graduate Council in April 2017.
  - Recently reviewed by The ASH committee and they are requesting additional information.
- The Remote Participation policy
  - A recent situation involving the Chemistry department revealed the need to revise the policy to be more concise.
  - Potential revisions will be disseminated electronically for members to review prior to discussing at the next meeting.

## **Academic Affairs' Report**

- No report.

## **Old Business**

### **Request for Review of ESL Program**

Broussard recalled prior discussions and would entertain a motion. Chance made a motion that Dean Richardson, on behalf of the Graduate Council, request a formal external review of all aspects of the ESL Program; including screening, staffing, admissions processes, and other policies to the Office of Academic Affairs. Perry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with no abstentions.

## **New Business**

### **Proposal: Curriculum Change MBA Program**

Dana Hart, Director of the MBA Program, briefly explained the difference between the current 22-month program and the proposed 11-month program. The new program is a way to enhance opportunities for students who do not want to enroll in the two-year program. This accelerated option will provide the opportunity to learn the same broad-based business fundamentals through core courses and enhance it through an elective curriculum. This 11-month program, beginning in June and ending in May, will be a 36-hour curriculum available exclusively for Business majors.

Hart entertained questions from the floor. Chance asked about the cost of the proposed program. Hart replied that tuition would essentially be half of what it costs to enroll in the 22-month program. Pojman asked if this is new for schools with MBA programs. Hart said this is a common occurrence with several schools desiring to capture the market of students that are not interested in attending a two or four year program.

Seifried made a motion to approve the proposal, Gansle seconded, and the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

### **LSU Online Presentation**

Sasha Thackaberry, Vice Provost of Digital and Continuing Education, spoke about her experience working with online programs and the vision of LSU Online. Their mission is to create tier one, high-quality learning experience with world-class customer support with a financially sustainable model. Maintaining a high-quality learning experience means providing a different support structure in instructional design, modernized learning, environments, and programs offered. They will also cater to a wide variety of students by providing a learner concierge service. The concierge service will assist learners with many of their needs, excluding academic advising. She said that financial tools would be provided for the colleges to hire

faculty and to determine their faculty model and ROI. There is a revenue share divided between the Office of Academic Affairs, the colleges, and LSU Online.

Perry inquired about what type of input would current faculty members have with online admissions and about the specifics of the current admissions timeline. Thackaberry said the term structure currently is two 7-week terms per semester. A technical infrastructure within Workday is being developed to allow on-campus students an opportunity to take online courses with LSU Online. The students' financial aid would work seamlessly to cover tuition for on-campus and LSU Online courses. It will increase flexibility for students and reduces the number of classes taught in multiple formats for faculty. LSU Online will only facilitate current procedures, however, if programs would like to expand, multiple starts per year is recommended. Gansle asked about the expected turnaround time on admission decisions in the department. Thackaberry said learner concierges would work with programs to set expectations based on their infrastructure and the Graduate School's admission process.

Frick asked if there would be any differences in LSU Online monitors academic governance and the faculty selection process. She replied that there are no differences, but some parts of the current process make supporting online education difficult. Faculty selection and course monitoring will remain at the college and department level. Courses offered for the first time must pass a high-level quality check to ensure matters are accessible.

Lockridge asked the decision-making process in regards to monitoring programs' content creation and ownership. Thackaberry stated there is an agreement that gives the faculty member ownership of the intellectual property, and the institution will maintain a persistent copy.

In response to question about resources and compensation, Thackaberry said there is more support with the scalable model because the institution will recoup some of that funding. Digital & Continuing Education offers a \$5,000 stipend to a faculty member serving as a subject matter expert for scalable programs.

Broussard asked about the demand in the current market for online degrees and if LSU Online would reach out to departments to assist with recommendations for courses and programs. Thackaberry said the market is currently crowded and slow growth is predicted.

Sharky asked about the amount of time it takes to develop a course. She said if courses are a part of a scalable program, they have five 16-week cycles annually. The first 8-weeks are used to determine and review objectives, strategies, collecting resources from faculty. The second 8-weeks is a design sprint. The learning experience designer works with the faculty member creating modules in real time. Thackaberry thanked everyone for their time and would send additional materials to review.

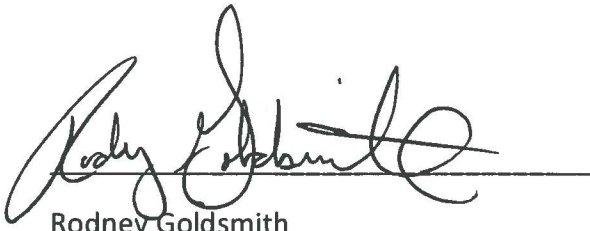
## **Standing Committee Reports**

- **Promotion & Tenure- Chance:** The committee met with Provost Haynie and Vice Provost Cassidy to give an overview of the P&T process and discuss making the process more transparent. Haynie and Cassidy were invited to attend committee meetings to ask questions and participate in the discussion about each candidate. They also discussed informing the P&T committee of the final decisions for each candidate.
- **Awards- Wicks:** Wicks gave an overview of the awards committee and the responsibilities of the chairperson. The committee monitors the EDA and Dissertation awards. The chairperson oversees that every member, excluding members of the P&T committee, review ten proposals each fall. Three members review every proposal.
- **Graduate Faculty - de Queiroz:** The new list of nominees and their packets are posted and ballots are due on October 30, 2018. The final group of nominees will be voted on in December.
- **Graduate Council Webpage- Adams:** No report.

**Meeting Adjourned-** 2:49 pm

**Next Meeting:** Monday, November 12, 2018, from 1:30 - 3:00 pm in 135 Thomas Boyd Hall.

**Recorded by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney Goldsmith", written over a horizontal line.

Rodney Goldsmith  
**Assistant to the Dean**

**Approved by:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Malcolm Richardson", written over a horizontal line.

Malcolm Richardson  
**Interim Dean of the Graduate School**